

Your Public Lands

Autumn 1982

~~IDAHO STATE OFFICE LIBRARY~~
~~BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT~~

BLM LIBRARY

~~1982~~

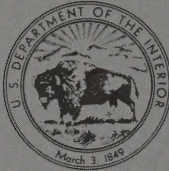
RECREATION

An Increasing Use of the Land

#1273640773

ID: 88076191

HD
216
L3664
V.32
no. 4



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE
INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

YOUR PUBLIC LANDS, the official publication of the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, is issued Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter.

Editor: **Connie Babb**

Publication Designer: **Gayle Daskalakis**

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The printing of this publication was approved by the Office of Management and Budget, Jan. 20, 1978.

You are welcome to reprint any or all of the printed matter in *Your Public Lands* except for copyrighted material.

Prints of photographs appearing herein may be obtained for publication by writing to the Editor, *Your Public Lands*, Office of Public Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, 18th and C Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

Please give appropriate credit.

Your Public Lands

Autumn 1982
Volume 32
Number 4

Contents

- 3 **Public Lands for Recreation**
Policies, Goals and Directions
Robert F. Burford, Director, BLM
- 5 **Recreation and Mining**
An unlikely marriage
William Robertson
- 9 **Arizona's Desert Gem**
Aravaipa Canyon
Jack Sept
- 11 **Alaska Rivers**
A different recreational experience
Joette Storm
- 12 **The "Wild and Scenic" Rogue River**
Carolyn Z. Roth
- 16 **The California Desert**
A Playground in Paradise
Gerald E. Hillier
- 20 **The Big Sky Country's Big Outdoors**
Charlie Most
- 23 **News Highlights**

Cover: Payette Lake, McCall, Idaho. Photo by Trudie Olson, a winner BLM's 1982 employee photo contest.

Policies, Goals and Directions

Public Lands for Recreation

Last year, the public lands played host to over 70 million visitors seeking rest and relaxation through recreation activities. That's an impressive number, and it has been increasing at a steady rate over the years.

As this demand has grown, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has tried to provide management and services necessary to make these visits safe and enjoyable while ensuring the resources affected by these activities were adequately protected and conflicts among competing users minimized.

But that job has not been easy nor inexpensive, and BLM is embarking upon a new effort to make the program more efficient, more cost-effective, and quite frankly, cheaper. By cheaper, I mean BLM will be handling this recreation impact with fewer dollars and fewer people, part of the overall emphasis to reduce government spending.

In many cases, achieving these objectives will mean some recreationists, such as those involved in commercial enterprises such as river running, or those benefitting from government investments such as campers at developed campgrounds, will be paying more of their share of program expenses. Recreationists will find the most intensive management efforts and controls at heavily used areas or areas where resource conflicts or damages are occurring, and will find increasingly less management, services, or facilities at less frequently used or lower priority areas.

To successfully make these changes, BLM needs the coopera-

tion of those millions of recreationists who enjoy the wide array of benefits the public lands have to offer. We encourage recreationists to advise us on where and how BLM should focus its limited money and manpower so we can be as responsive as possible to their needs and wishes and for the resources they want to see and enjoy on the public lands.

As part of this program overhaul, BLM has developed a new recreation policy and initiated a new management direction. One key aspect of the new policy is to distinguish

types of areas :

- Congressionally designated areas, such as national conservation areas, wild and scenic river segments, national recreation trails, etc.;
- major rivers and other water-based recreation areas where BLM has jurisdiction;
- areas with outstanding recreation values where existing demand cannot be satisfied by the private sector or another government entity; and
- areas where recreation capacity is exceeded regularly significant resource values are threatened.



Sailboat Regatta

Photo by Trudie Olson, Idaho State Office

those public lands needing and deserving priority attention in terms of management investment and supervision. In other words, we will be focusing our limited manpower and money where it will do the most good for the public and the public land resources.

Accordingly, BLM local offices have already begun to identify *Intensive or Special Recreation Management Areas*. These are areas where recreation is recognized as the principle management objective. Within this category, higher priority is given to the following

The more of these descriptions applying to a specific area, the higher priority it receives. Other factors involved in determining priority include existing designations or special recognition, special management issues or concerns, the extent of BLM responsibility and commitment in the area, and the level of public controversy or interest. The goal is to promote better

management in these areas, utilizing a larger percentage of available funds. Considering all these factors, we expect areas selected for intensive or special management will comprise a small percentage of the public lands.

On the remaining public lands, BLM will be involved in *Extensive Recreation Management*. Although recreation is not the primary management objective in these areas, that doesn't mean the public doesn't recreate on these lands or that recreation use is not part of BLM's multiple use plans. It

does mean that management emphasis in these areas will not be primarily on recreation but rather will focus on resolving only the most immediate recreation issues and concerns. Providing the public with information or addressing access issues are good examples. Minimal supervision, and, therefore, minimal manpower and funding, should be required in these areas.

In addition to this shift in management direction, BLM is also making other critical changes in our recreation management program to meet future challenges. As I stated earlier, fees paid by some recreationists will be increased. We expect these increases will be in effect by the end of 1982.

Part of the reason for these increases is a government-wide effort to increase fees in programs that are not cost-effective. In BLM's recreation programs, this inequity is evident when you consider we spent \$8.7 million in taxpayer funds on management and maintenance last year and collected only \$359,000 in user fees.

To correct this imbalance, fees will be increased for users in areas where a higher percentage of management costs are expended. Affected users include:

- those using campgrounds where developed facilities such as water, sanitary facilities, picnic tables, etc., are provided and require maintenance;
- those engaged in commercial activities, such as outfitters handling river trips who charge fees;
- those engaged in competitive events, such as off-road vehicle races;
- those engaged in large off-road vehicle events (more than 50 vehicles) even if the event is

noncommercial and non-competitive; and

- those wishing to use special areas where use must be limited and supervised because of resource considerations or management concerns, such as heavily used river segments.

We estimate these affected users constitute about 10 percent of all public land recreationists. The remaining 90 percent will continue to recreate free of charge because their uses are less concentrated and less demanding. For example, a family camping on public lands outside of developed areas will not be paying a fee because no services (water, restrooms, etc.) are provided, minor impact to the resources results, and little, if any, supervision is necessary.

BLM is also doing its part to trim management costs, whenever possible, by streamlining internal procedures, reducing red-tape and unnecessary activities, and making our processes more cost-effective. In addition, we'll be looking for areas, facilities, or management activities that really don't belong under BLM responsibility, or where responsibility is shifting, or where we are duplicating the services of other government entities.

Once identified, we'll take action to resolve these situations, such as transferring a facility to another more appropriate agency, reducing the level of management, closing the facility, or entering into a cooperative effort with other agencies.

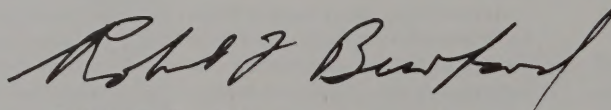
Finally, the last major component of this management effort rests on your shoulders—those who use or someday plan to use the public lands for recreation. We encourage you to:

- Take an active role in our planning efforts to change the direction of our management

activities. To make this shift successful, we need to make sure we know the public's needs and desires in selecting areas for various levels of management, and where shifts in management responsibility should and can be made;

- Cooperate with BLM personnel in implementing these changes so everyone can be assured the necessary changes are made fairly and all those involved understand the rationale behind the decisions; and
- Where possible, volunteer your time and expertise in a variety of areas to better everyone's recreation experience. The President has made volunteerism a cornerstone of his public policy and BLM is finding many people willing and able to help. There are already an estimated 843 volunteers working on a variety of multiple use management projects such as marking trails, improving campgrounds, serving as campground hosts, staffing visitor centers, monitoring events, helping to develop and maintain exhibits, and performing many other needed services.

Granted, all these efforts and changes in the recreation program will take a great deal of effort from everyone involved. But with the public's help, we're confident we can achieve these cost savings and accomplish these changes while still making the public lands accessible and enjoyable to all recreationists. The following articles in this edition of *Your Public Lands* will give you tangible examples of many aspects of public land recreation management now being conducted in BLM offices throughout the West and Alaska.

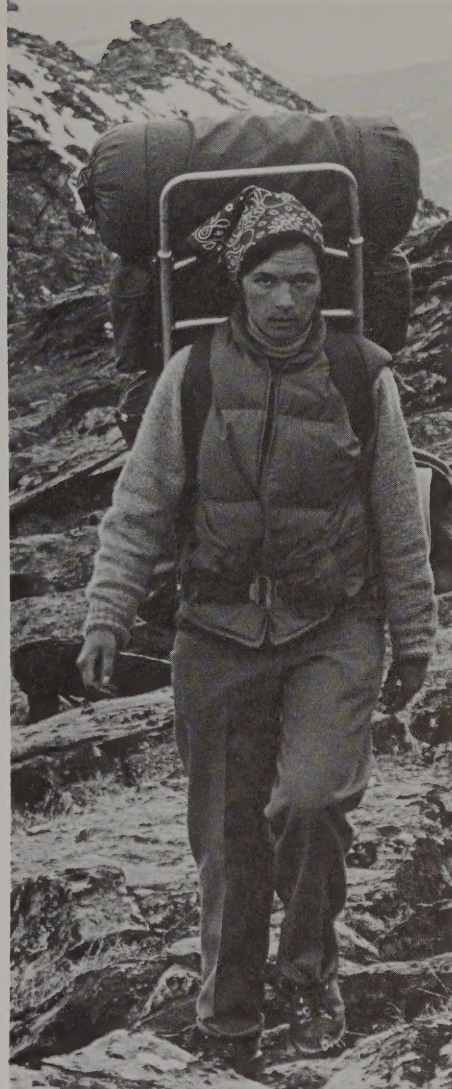


Robert F. Burford
Director of the Bureau of Land Management

Recreation and Mining

An Unlikely Marriage

By William J. Robertson



All marriages are not made in heaven. In fact, sometimes the partners in a marriage are complete opposites and are at constant odds with each other. But strangely, these marriages frequently are successful and are enhanced by the constant interplay of differing interests.

Such a relationship exists in two special land areas in Alaska created by the Alaska National Interest

Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA)—commonly called the Alaska Lands Act. The marriage created by the law joined two very unlikely interests—recreation and mining. The Bureau of Land Management was appointed to assure that it remains a lasting union.

The Alaska Lands Act probably caused more debate, controversy and political maneuvering in the Congress of the United States than

any other legislation in history. Beginning in 1971, a law which resolved the Native land claims in Alaska contained a small, obscure section which allowed Congress to designate millions of acres of public lands in Alaska as National Parks, Wildlife Refuges and National Forests. Because of the great mineral and energy resources in Alaska and because of the equally great interest of conservationists to pre-

serve large tracts of wilderness in the State, the debates in Congress were long, and arduous.

During these heavily lobbied Congressional battles, the negotiation focused for a time on a particularly unique area about 30 miles north of Fairbanks in Alaska's central region. The area was large—over two million acres—and very strongly supported by conservation groups for special designation as a National Park or Wildlife Refuge because of the area's scenic beauty, wild rivers and wildlife populations. An equally strong lobby, an effort by the mineral industry, sought to retain the area as open public lands allowing mineral development. Finally, a compromise was reached which allowed both interests to be served. BLM was designated to retain multiple-use management responsibility of two distinct, but contiguous areas. Each of the areas is larger than the State of Rhode Island which is relatively small by Alaskan standards, but constitute massive amounts of real estate to manage intensely for high public use.

The areas are distinct in that each has certain site specific requirements.

The White Mountain National Recreation Area

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act set aside one million acres for multiple use management with special emphasis on recreational use. Properly located, existing mining claims in the area were to be protected, including access to them, but any new claims would not be allowed. There are an estimated 2000 mining claims within the designated area. Leasing of minerals is permitted when such use will promote, or is compatible, or doesn't significantly impair recreation and conservation uses.

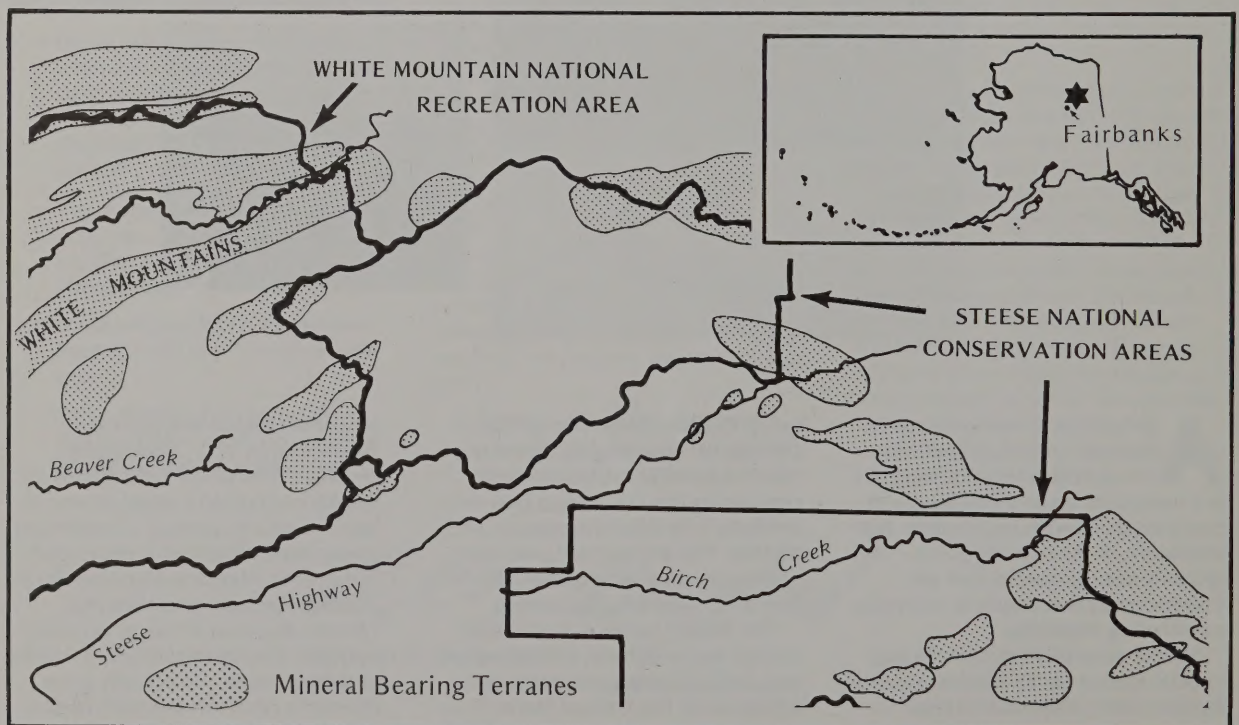
The White Mountain area is an indisputably beautiful site. It has long been recognized by BLM and by the public as a prime recreation and scenic area. The White Mountain Recreation Trail extends about 22 miles from a highway access point to a BLM shelter cabin on Beaver Creek Wild River.

Actually two trails exist, the summer trail, which provides hikers with an outstanding experience to penetrate Alaska's often difficult terrain, is the most heavily used. The trail traverses high hills, where

possible. Boardwalks have been provided to permit travel across marshy areas. During the winter, a separate trail leads to the same designation but traverses essentially the low valleys; this route is popular for snowmobilers and cross-country skiers. The shelter cabin was provided by a local Kiwanis Club in 1966. It has been heavily used both summer and winter by recreationists. Use is controlled by a permit system at the Fairbanks BLM office.

Beaver Creek Wild River courses 125 miles through the heart of the White Mountain area and is an essentially pristine clear-water river popular for recreationists. Surface access to the river is by a very primitive road constructed many years ago for access to gold mining claims. Aircraft must be used to remove boaters from the river with the alternative being a very long and slow journey down the lower Beaver Creek to the Yukon River and ultimately downstream to highway access. The river is also an outstanding stream for many of the Alaska fish species—especially the Arctic Grayling.

The White Mountain area is also highly mineralized and has the



potential for at least four world-class mining operations. Besides the ever-present lode and placer gold deposits, copper, lead, zinc, molybdenum, platinum, chromium, nickel, silver, and several of the rare earth metals are known to be abundant in the area. Some of these are considered to be strategic metals. Especially attractive to future development of any mineral deposits is the all-weather road system to the west and to the south of the White Mountains and the presence of a railroad system linking Fairbanks to tidewater. Also of major importance is Fairbanks, a community well situated to accommodate large scale development operations.

Animal species in the area include wolf, grizzly and black bear, moose and many smaller mammals. Birds of prey are also found with Bald and Golden Eagles and the endangered Peregrine Falcon occasionally seen.

The Steese National Conservation Area

ANILCA set aside one million two hundred twenty thousand acres of public land as a National Conservation Area to be managed on a program of multiple use and sustained yield. Special values to be considered in planning and management of the area are caribou range and Birch Creek, a Wild River. Like the White Mountain National Recreation Area, valid existing mining claims would be protected and no new claims would be allowed after the passage of ANILCA. But unlike the White Mountain Area, the Steese National Conservation Area would allow for conventional mineral entry if provided for in the land use planning process. Approximately 5000 mining claims are presently filed in this area.

The Steese National Conservation Area is divided by the Steese Highway into roughly equal parts, lying to the north and to the south of the road. A strip of State owned and managed land is located between the two areas. Through the southern portion, Birch Creek, a designated Wild River, flows toward the Yukon River to the North. The "wild" designation applies to



The White Mountain area, an indisputably beautiful site, is also highly mineralized and has the potential for at least four world-class mining operations.

125 miles of this river. Along the northern portion of the Conservation Area the Pinnell Mountain National Recreation Trail is located.

Historically, the Birch Creek and its tributaries have been heavily mined for gold since the late 1800's. Depending on the current market price for the precious metal, mining activity has fluctuated over the years. Many dormant operations have recently become active. In addition to the gold mining, a potential world class tungsten deposit lies in the southern area.

In contrast to Beaver Creek, in the White Mountain Area, Birch Creek is slower moving and its water clarity is not perfect. Typical of many of Alaska's streams that meander through muskeg and flat, swampy areas, the water of Birch Creek picks up the tea-colored stain from sphagnum moss peat bogs common in Alaska. Clay soils also add to water turbidity and occur naturally as well as being contributed to by mining activity. There is road access to both upper and lower Birch Creek to allow recreational fishing and boating. Lower Birch Creek is extremely sluggish and is rarely boated down to the Yukon except by powered riverboats.

Another attraction for the area is the Pinnell Mountain National Recreation Trail which winds 24 miles along the northern areas' southern border. Completely above tree-line, and accessible

from two points along the Steese Highway, this trail is heavily traveled and popular for its abundance of wildflowers and a south-of-the-Arctic-Circle-view of the midnight sun. BLM also maintains two primitive shelter cabins along the trail to provide emergency protection during the occasional high winds and the cold of the high country. The trail is limited to summertime use because of heavy winter snow and hazardous, narrow, rocky trails.

Wildlife along the trail are typical of high altitude terrain in Alaska with grizzly bear and caribou the largest of the mammals common to the area. Many species of birds, including the ptarmigan, build their nests in rock crevices or on the ground.

One of the legislative mandates for the Conservation Area was the maintenance of caribou habitat. The caribou, which historically passed in large herds through the area and then declined in numbers, are now being seen in ever-increasing numbers. The reasons for the population decline are not clear and may have only been a cyclic phenomenon or perhaps a shifting of the migration route to other areas. Hunting pressure and other human activity could also have been a contributing factor.

Continued on page 8

Legislative Mandate to BLM for River and Land Use Plans

Congress, through ANILCA, directed the Bureau of Land Management to develop land use plans for both the Steese National Conservation Area and for the White Mountain National Recreation Area by December, 1985. In addition, BLM is to prepare management plans for Beaver Creek and Birch Creek Wild Rivers by December, 1982. The Fairbanks District of the BLM has initiated action on both of these mandates.

The planning process for land use is always a challenge for BLM. There is always controversy from various special interests with BLM acting as mediator to provide a plan that can serve a multiple use discipline. Whenever possible, uses are combined for a particular area and exclusive use is avoided.

Planning for the two special areas has given BLM a special challenge. Recreation and mining are traditionally thought of as mutually exclusive—where there is a mine, there is no recreation; where there is recreation use, no mining is allowed. Such is not the case in these special areas. Congress has mandated that they will be used for recreation. At the same time Congress also recognized the validity and continued existence of mining operations in the areas. It is BLM's task to provide a workable plan to allow both uses and satisfy all interests. Both recreation and mining interests have their particular points of view.

From the miners' point of view, neither area would be accessible had it not been for mining. Beginning in the late 1800's, gold rushes to the creeks surrounding Fairbanks created access trails to the streams, and mining camps developed into present day communities. Fairbanks, now a city of 60,000, began in 1902 as a cache and storage area for miners to resupply their needs. Modern day highways and secondary roads generally follow original mining trails. Min-

ing also provided the first economic base for Alaska and in the view of many, will provide a major portion of Alaska's future income and employment through mining itself and its support services.

Miners are also quick to point out that old, abandoned mining camps and equipment are often preserved as a part of our historical heritage. In fact, several BLM recreational cabins used by hundreds of people each year are nothing more than old restored miners' cabins.

From some recreationists' point of view, Alaska in its most primitive state is desirable for persons seeking a wilderness type of experience. For others, access to areas of recreation is paramount, and a primitive condition is secondary. The vast majority of recreationists using the public lands in Alaska tend to take a moderate view. Most realize that without access to a recreational area, it can't be enjoyed. If access is limited to air transportation, then costs escalate rapidly. However, surface access is unlikely to be provided for recreations—the costs of construction are frequently too high to be justified for recreational use.

Thus, the dilemma that BLM faces in planning for public use of its two special areas is this: How can recreational needs as mandated by Congress be met while recognizing the valid existing rights of mining, also mandated by Congress? The solution will not be simple, nor will it be without controversy. The views of both the recreationists and miners are correct. Each group has the right to enjoy its own pursuits, however neither has the right to exclude the other. The answer to the dilemma will probably be the passage of time. It has taken nearly 100 years of activity in the area to reach the present situation. A law less than two years old will not make an instant change of course for these areas. There will have to be a good deal of compromise by both interests.

To gain more insight to the issues involved, BLM has launched an ambitious public involvement plan to gain citizen participation in the planning process. Meetings are being held with interest groups to receive this early response to BLM actions. Contacts have been made to all known miners and private land inholders in the area to fully involve and inform them of the law and of the intent of the BLM planning activity. Information, education and a willingness to listen are the keys to cooperation.

The final answer will probably lie in the fact that one interest is a renewable resource and the other is not. The mineral resource will someday be exhausted and the land will heal. Even in Alaska where the land is often referred to as extremely fragile, the land is, in fact, marvelously resilient. With careful planning, all sorts of activity can occur if one is willing to accept the fact that disturbance takes time to repair. Whatever is decided, will be through the land use planning process. Congress gave BLM considerable latitude in deciding how to manage these units. That is why land use plans are written. Plans for land use must be far sighted—especially in the planning for the White Mountains and the Steese Areas and incorporate all interests, and melding them into a harmonious whole.

Mining and recreation were married by law, in December, 1980 by ANILCA. And partners they will remain—for better or for worse. BLM's task will be to make the relationship a long and enduring one without discord and one from which all will benefit.

William Robertson is a Public Information Specialist in BLM's Fairbanks, Alaska Office.



Arizona's Desert Gem

By Jack Sept

When Interior Secretary James Watt recommended Aravaipa Canyon Primitive Area in Southeast Arizona to President Reagan for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, he described the area as "an outstanding natural area; a gem of the southwestern desert."

A "gem" is a very fitting description for this area of spectacular natural beauty 120 miles southeast of Phoenix. Aravaipa Creek, a unique perennial stream in the otherwise parched Sonoran Desert, is life blood to a narrow 12 mile-long patch of lush riparian habitat. Contrasting with the green colors of the canyon's floor and enhancing the area's scenery and interest are the desert plant communities growing on the 1,000 foot multi-colored walls, side canyons and the tablelands above. It is not unusual to look up through Arizona sycamore leaves and see prickly pear and saguaro cactus peering down into the cool canyon shadows.

The combination of riparian and desert communities in turn provides habitat for many forms of wildlife. Nine species of fish, six of amphibians, 35 of reptiles, 25 of mammals, and 202 species of birds are known to inhabit the area. Of particular interest to many visitors are the black hawks, zone-tailed hawks, prairie falcons and golden eagles that soar above the high rugged cliffs. Desert bighorn sheep, mule deer, white-tailed deer, coyote, fox, bobcats and mountain lions also use the area for water, forage and thermal cover. No other Arizona stream supports so large a number of native fish species, with longfin dace and speckled dace being dominant. Aravaipa Creek also supports the last reproducing population of loach minnow in southern Arizona.

Archaeological and historical data dating back 9,500 years indicates a long record of continuing human interest in and use of Aravaipa Canyon. Until the 1950's,

this interest and use was limited to local residents, ranchers, miners, and hunters. Occasionally hikers and horseback riders used the area.

During the 1950's, however, the popularity of the canyon soared as a result of publicity. Several articles in magazines brought attention to its significance as a place for various kinds of recreation. Visitor demands on the fragile ecology increased dramatically, leading to a growth of vandalism and litter, and the destruction of some of the attractiveness of the canyon.

To protect and maintain the natural beauty and primitive character of the area and still provide visitors with a meaningful and quality primitive experience, Aravaipa Canyon Primitive Area was established in 1969. The Safford District of BLM began a management plan in October 1969 and completed it one year later, after considerable public involvement and hearings. The public has widely accepted and approved the plan

for the 4,044 acre area and it has been managed as a de facto wilderness for the past 10 years.

In implementing the management plan to provide more intensive care and protection to the area, the Safford District has stationed a permanent Park Technician at either end of the canyon to oversee the area. This staff provides for visitor safety and protection through regular patrols in the canyon. They are trained in first aid and rescue procedures and continually monitor visitor use and resource conditions.

As another means of protecting this rugged but fragile canyon and retaining the solitude that makes the area so pleasant to visit, a permit system now limits visitors to no more than 50 per day. Of those 50, up to 20 people may enter from the East end of the canyon and up to 30 may enter from the West. Length of stay is limited to a maximum of three days and two nights. Horses can be used only for day

trips. Group size is limited to 10 hikers and five horseback riders.

Reservations to hike or ride Aravaipa Canyon can be made up to six months in advance. As could be expected, reservations for weekends and holidays fill up quickly and people wishing to use the primitive area at those times should make their plans and reservations well in advance. However, reservations for weekdays can often be obtained just a few days before visiting the area. Reservations made over one month in advance must be confirmed 15 to 30 days before the entrance date to cut down on the "no shows" and make those dates available to others wishing to enter the primitive area. All reservations are issued through the BLM District Office in Safford.

Starting in fiscal year 1983, BLM will initiate a fee of \$2.00 per person per day to help offset administrative and maintenance costs. Nationwide, BLM collects only \$1.00 in fees for every \$24.00 spent on recreation programs. Local residents, user groups, and the public strongly support preserving Aravaipa Canyon's natural beauty and uniqueness from overuse and abuse and the fees collected will aid in that effort.

Each year about 4,000 visitors use Aravaipa Canyon Primitive Area. They come from all over the United States and many foreign countries to enjoy scientific study, wildlife observation, photography, and primitive recreation.

As more and more people enjoy this desert wonder, its reputation and demand grows. Because of its wilderness values and apparent lack of significant resource conflicts, legislation has been introduced to add the primitive area and 2,626 acres of adjoining public land to the National Wilderness Preservation System. If approved by Congress, Aravaipa Canyon would become the Nation's first Wilderness Area on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

Jack Sept is a Public Affairs Specialist in BLM's Safford District Arizona Office.

Aravaipa Creek offers contrast to the area with a rich, green riparian zone.



ALASKA RIVERS

A Different Recreational Experience

By Joette Storm

The Delta, Gulkana and Unalakleet Rivers are three of the newest additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Located in Alaska where wild and scenic are everyday words, these rivers offer a different recreational experience than most others in the system.

Flowing out of Northwest Alaska into the Bering Sea, the Unalakleet is a "truly wild river," says Dave Kelly, McGrath Resource Area natural resource specialist who is currently preparing a management plan for the river.

"When a person travels on the Unalakleet he or she knows that the area is remote and that the same type of open country exists for hundreds of miles in any direction," Kelly explains.

Although the Unalakleet may not offer the outstanding scenery of other rivers in the system, it affords views of mountains and an occasional historic structure such as a turn of the century mink farm. It is this remote quality that makes the river a special experience for a rafting party.

"At any bend there may be an unexpected encounter with wildlife," remarks the biologist, who savors the memory of an evening serenade by a pack of wolves during one recent river trip.

Fishing is also outstanding on the Unalakleet where grayling, arctic char, and salmon occur.

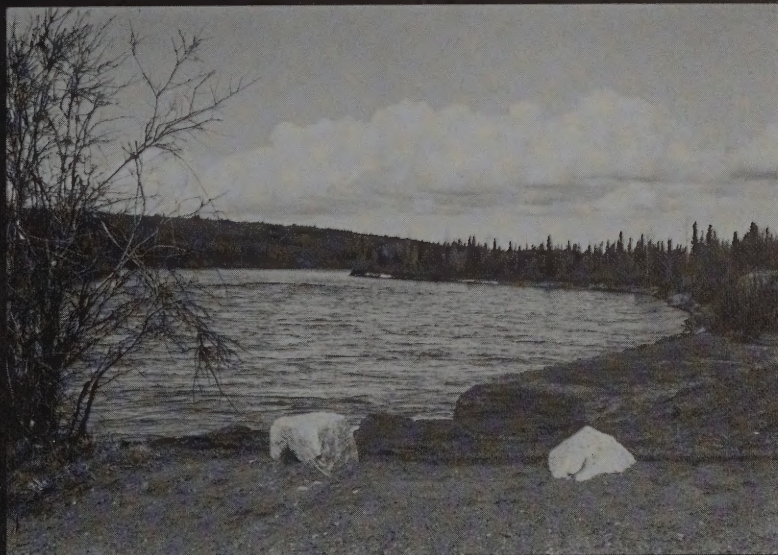
In the eastern portion of the district lie the Delta and Gulkana rivers, two popular canoeing and rafting streams with road access.

The Delta offers both wild and scenic characteristics with its views of the Alaska Mountain Range and some exciting rapids and waterfalls.

Prospective river runners enter the Delta at Tangle Lake on the Denali Highway for a 35-mile trip that can be made in 2-3 days. Class III water, excellent grayling fishing

and occasional sightings of eagles make this an attractive river experience.

On holiday weekends, the Delta and its companion river, the Gulkana, are floated by as many as 200 people because of the quality of experience and accessibility by road. Once on the rivers there is a



The Gulkana River, accessible by road, is a popular canoeing and rafting stream offering scenic views and exciting rapids.

sense of remoteness because even the Gulkana, which flows out of Paxson Lake along the Richardson Highway and parallel to the road, is far from any large population center. Glennallen is the closest community and its population of 600 is widely scattered across the foothills of the Gulkana Basin.

Buffered from civilization by a mile or more of dense vegetation, the Gulkana offers some tremendous eagle viewing and good fishing. All of the 45-mile trip from Paxson Lake to Sourdough has been classified as "wild." The lower reaches offer a view of the Wrangell Mountains including Mt. Wrangell, an active volcano.

Peak use occurs during the Fourth of July weekend, according to Larry Kajdan, Glennallen Area Recreation Planner. After then, use drops somewhat and a river party can expect to make the trip without encountering more than a dozen other recreationists.

"The management philosophy applied to the Delta River, Tangle Lake, and Gulkana River is to provide for recreational use of rivers and lakes at a level that will not impair their present natural settings, systems or resource values," says Kajdan.

Plans reflecting this philosophy are being formulated, with the help of people who use the rivers, for submission to Congress by the end of 1983.

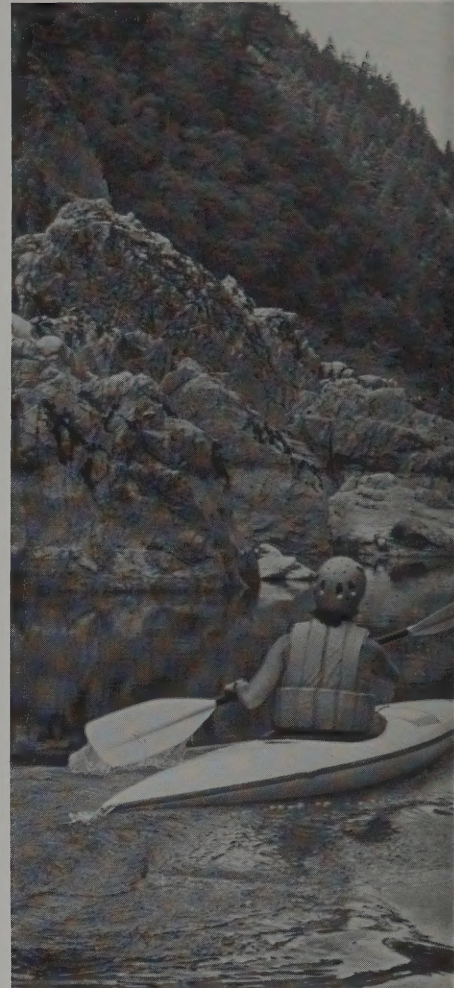
Joette Storm is a Public Information Specialist in BLM's Anchorage, Alaska Office.

Through the years, the Rogue River in southwestern Oregon has offered both challenge and opportunity. It is nationally recognized as a river of outstanding beauty and recreational opportunity. Renowned for its runs of steelhead trout and salmon, the Rogue was favored by the notable author and outdoorsman, Zane Grey, who fished, boated, camped and wrote of its enchanting beauty and charm. Solitude Bar, Rocky Riffle and Skull Bar near Galice were favorite haunts frequented by this ardent fly fisherman.

In October 1968, Congress passed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. An 84-mile segment of the Rogue, including a strip averaging one-fourth mile on either side, was designated as one of the first eight rivers in the Nation under this Act. The area designated extends from the mouth of the Applegate River near Grants Pass to the mouth of Lobster Creek near Gold Beach. The Act provided three river classifications—wild, scenic and recreational. In 1970, Oregon voters approved an initiative petition which created the Oregon State Scenic Waterways System. The same stretch of the Rogue was one of six rivers to be designated as a scenic waterway.

The character of the Rogue is varied. There is a rugged beauty in the steep-walled rock of Hellgate Canyon. The turbulent whitewater of Blossom Bar, Wildcat, and numerous other rapids in the Wild Section contrast with the pastoral charm of the rural countryside in the Recreation Section. The osprey and the stately great blue heron fish in the Rogue as they have for centuries. It's not at all uncommon to see black-tailed deer, river otter, black bear, and even Roosevelt elk.

To the best of our knowledge, the first human inhabitants of the Rogue River canyon were hunting and gathering people whose lives revolved around the seasons as they collected acorns during the early fall, and caught plentiful supplies of salmon in the spring. In the 1820's, fur brigades of the Hudson's Bay Company came into the area. Soon after, large emigrant parties arrived in Oregon. In 1853 the settlers began calling the U.S. Army for aid in defending them-

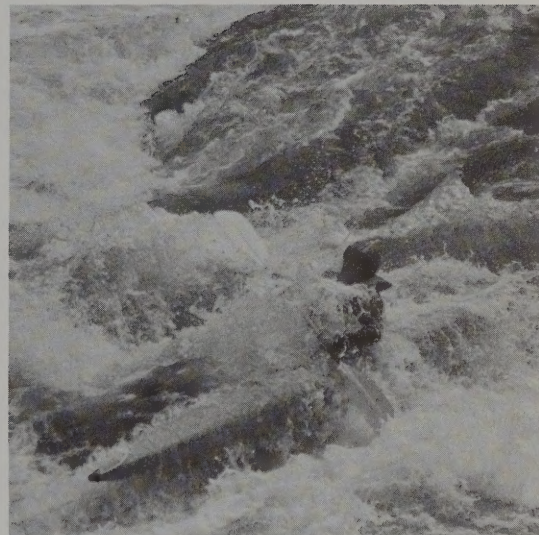


The Rogue River "Wild and Scenic"

By Carolyn Z. Roth

selves against the Indians. A series of skirmishes culminated in the Rogue River Indian War of 1855-56.

Gold was first discovered on the Rogue in 1859, and in the ensuing years prospectors investigated nearly every spot along the river. Today, evidence of mining includes abandoned equipment and old cabins, piles of stones moved from



Summer brings whitewater enthusiasts.

d Scenic"

the streambed by Chinese laborers, and occasional mineshafts. Although artifacts may be found throughout the river corridor, it is important for visitors to know that the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 imposes stringent penalties for collecting archaeological materials from public lands.

Two sites along the Rogue are on the National Register of Historic Places: the Whisky Creek Cabin and the Rogue River Ranch. With much careful planning and labor, both structures have undergone extensive stabilization work. The Whisky Creek Cabin is an excellent example of a miner's cabin, and was inhabited into the early 1970's.

The Rogue River was the home and business site of one of the first white settlers in the Rogue Canyon. Known as the Billings Trading Company and Boarding House until 1930, it was then sold and became a recreational homesite. This was the beginning of a new era... recreation as we know it now. Today, the buildings have been restored, and the main house is a small historical museum. Zane Grey's cabin, although on private property, is privately maintained and also available for recreationists to visit.

There are approximately 26 primitive camping sites in the Wild Section, and several more developed campgrounds in the recreation and scenic sections of the river. These facilities are maintained by the Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and Josephine County, depending upon land jurisdiction. Numerous fishing access sites are being developed for anglers to more easily reach the river. There are also several privately operated lodges along the river, in both Recreation and Wild Sections, offering boaters comfortable, rustic accommodations.

BLM operates a visitor center at Rand near the community of Galice with a staff to answer questions and check permits. Interpretive brochures and maps explaining the local natural and cultural history are available. Rand is also the base for the river rangers who talk with visitors along the river and help people understand how and why the river is managed as it is. They are also responsible for maintaining the river corridor and recreation sites.

Probably the most popular way to experience the Rogue River is by boat. Flat-bottomed, high-bowed Rogue-type drift boats and rubber rafts are the most common craft. Summer brings throngs of white-water enthusiasts, primarily in rubber rafts and the smaller, more maneuverable kayaks. As the weather cools, the autumn run of steelhead lures fisherman in drift boats. Power boats operate in the recreation and scenic sections and upstream to Blossom Bar Rapids. The wild section is closed to powerboats between May 15 and November 15 (except below Blossom Bar). Commercially guided float trips are quite popular with visitors who lack the experience or don't wish to venture out on their own. Commercial jet boat excursions are available upstream from the mouth of the Rogue at Gold Rush.

Another interesting way to enjoy the Rogue River country is to hike the Rogue River Trail. This 40-mile stretch in the Wild Section has been designated a National Recreational Trail. It follows the north bank of the river, and affords spectacular views of the river and surrounding country. It is a "hiking only" trail, closed to motorized vehicles, horses and pack animals.

In the recreation and scenic sections, a paved road parallels the river. The road affords automobile visitors the chance for sightseeing along the river.

In June 1977 the Rogue Wild & Scenic River Managing Agencies Group was formed. Representatives from the Federal, State and county agencies develop, implement and evaluate overall policies and procedures for managing the river and adjacent lands. The Bureau of Land Management and

Forest Service manage use of the Rogue River corridor in accordance with the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. BLM's Medford District manages the upper 47 miles, and the Galice Ranger District of the Forest Service administers the lower 37 miles within the national forest boundary. The State agency, with primary responsibility for administration of the scenic waterway, is the Department of Transportation, State Scenic Waterways System. The State Marine Board is involved in formulating regulations controlling boat use on the river. The management group also includes one person representing the counties that the river flows through.

The Scenic Easement Program

The National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act directs that "outstandingly remarkable" scenic, recreational, natural and cultural values be protected and preserved for present and future generations. Because of the locations of private land along the Rogue, Congress appropriated Land and Water Conservation Act funds for BLM to purchase land and scenic easements. This is to guide future development and maintain the scenic beauty and recreational enjoyment of the river area. When BLM buys a scenic easement from a landowner, it buys the right to protect the natural qualities of the area. The scenic easement contains restrictions on the future use and development of the land. For example, the easement may allow BLM to vegetatively screen an irrigation pump from the view of the river.

Impartial, experienced appraisers determine fair market values of the properties. Scenic easements have been acquired by BLM on nearly 2000 acres of private land at a cost of \$2,000,000. Outright purchase was considered on any available land, if it was in the public interest to do so. Over \$3,600,000 has been spent on this facet of the program.

A Permit System for the Rogue

Following designation of the Rogue as a National Wild & Scenic River in 1968, a coordinated BLM/FS management plan was sent to

Congress in 1969 and again in 1972. In 1973, a moratorium on additional commercial outfitters operating in the Wild Section was implemented, leaving 41 qualified commercial outfitters.

During the mid-1970's a controversy developed involving non-commercial users, commercial outfitters and lodge owners. Oregon's governor told the State parks superintendent to start resolving differences. With the support of the managing agencies, the Rogue River Policy Review Group was formed to review regulations and boating use. They operated under several constraints. Under the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, the river had to be administered so as to protect and enhance its unique natural, cultural, and recreational values. The Policy Review Group agreed that users should have the opportunity in the Wild Section to camp out of sight and sound of other parties and to travel without undue delay.

Plans for managing a commercial and non-commercial permit system, and determining limits for the numbers allowed to float the river were based upon trying to maintain "a relatively natural, uncrowded river travel experience." These issues were discussed at length in public meetings and hearings in Portland, San Francisco, Eugene, and locally in Grants Pass and Gold Beach.

In December 1977, after extensive public participation, the Rogue River Management Group developed a consolidated commercial/non-commercial permit system. It was started in the 1978 season and extends from the Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. Permit system management objectives were defined, and a "sociological" carrying capacity of about 120 persons per day (passengers) was established. The permits were evenly split between commercial and non-commercial passengers, based on 1976-77 use. The system also allows for unused permits to be given to standby boaters through a "common" and "open" pool, up to the 120 person limit.

Oregon Guide and Packers Association provides safe, quality experiences on the river, while

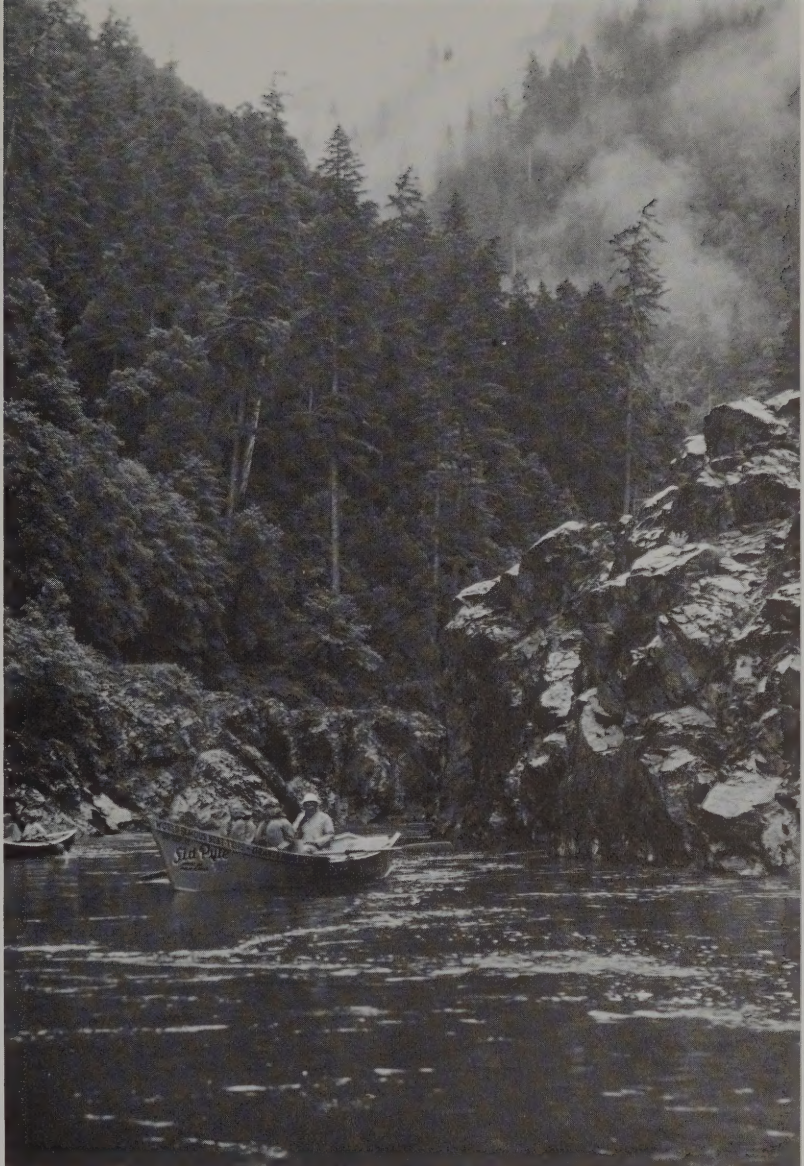
maintaining business stability, and providing a forum for discussion among outfitters. The managing agencies cooperate with the association in considering proposals for new procedures, such as the means to enforce the permit system and other river regulations. There are also questions about the transfer of commercial permits and the navigability of the Rogue River since it affects ownership of the riverbed and bank.

Programs today must pay their way...

BLM is trying alternative ways to manage programs so they can pay for themselves. In the past, a lot of work on the Rogue National Wild & Scenic River was accomplished by volunteers from the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) and the Young Adult Conservation Corps (YACC). Since these programs have been done away with, the Medford District has enlisted the help of volunteers from the Student Conservation Association (SCA) and student interns from Oregon State University. These programs have been working out quite well.

Another facet of managing programs involves collecting fees to recover permit administration costs and the cost of providing recreation services. These costs include permit issuance, monitoring, and compliance activities. Presently, fees are collected only for commercial boating users. Non-commercial boaters and hikers are not required to obtain permits or pay a fee. If there are to be any changes in the fee system for commercial or non-commercial boaters, they will be determined prior to the summer use season (Memorial Day weekend of each year). Visitors planning a trip to the Rogue River should contact the appropriate BLM or Forest Service office as noted at the end of this article.

Although the decision has been made to charge fees, each BLM State Office in the West is developing plans on how to increase the revenues. They are dealing with affected groups and individuals in determining the fairest and most economical way to achieve that goal.



A commercial/non-commercial permit system splits boater usage and determines limits for an uncrowded river travel experience.

Several other rivers in Oregon are currently being managed by BLM in close coordination with the State Scenic Waterways program. They are the Klamath, Deschutes, John Day, Owyhee and Grand Ronde. Their natural characteristics and level of recreation use determine appropriate management.

Despite all of the management complexities, the Rogue continues to be a national symbol, a river preserved in its natural setting to provide experiences that are becoming rare in urbanized America.

Carolyn Roth is a Public Information Specialist in BLM's Lakeview, Oregon Office.

For general information on how to make reservations for commercial boating trips, contact Oregon Guide and Packers Association, P.O. Box 3797, Portland, OR 97208.

For boating permit information on public lands, contact the Bureau of Land Management, Medford District, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, OR 97501, (503) 776-4174.

For boating permit information, within a National Forest, contact the Galice Ranger District of the Siskiyou National Forest, P.O. Box 1131, Grants Pass, OR 97526 (503) 479-3735.

Permits are not required for hiking the Rogue River Trail.



The California Desert

PLAYGROUND IN PARADISE



By Gerald E. Hillier

Friday afternoon! A three day weekend ahead! What will it be? The mountains? The beach? The desert? Southern Californians have outdoor recreation variety at their doorstep like few people anywhere else in the United States. One of the biggest playgrounds is the 12.1 million acres of public land in the 25 million acre California Desert Conservation Area. But there is more to it than just a playground—much more! It's recreation in a paradise.

To many people, the vast arid region stretching east beyond the mountains behind the Los Angeles/San Diego megalopolis is simply a barren waste; something to be endured while traveling to Las Vegas or to return to roots in the midwest. But to millions of other people, the desert is an escape.

Escape from congestion—from routine—from freeways. The desert not only offers alternative recreation, it offers an infinite variety of experiences.

Ironically, people pursuing the same ends—escape, fun, and adventure—seek it many different ways. What is your outdoor recreation pursuit? Hunting? Rockhounding? Sightseeing?—all rank high on the list of most Westerners. But the vast desert in Southern California, placed as it is next to one of the most populated areas in the world, is also placed next to a technologically innovative society. The desert provides opportunities for unique expression. Motorcycling, dune buggies, and all manner of vehicle activity abounds. Some are used for play, most for simply gaining access—getting off the highways and exploring. The California Desert, though, is more than vehicles. It is also wilderness and solitude. Artists, photographers, and nature lovers, from all over come to see and enjoy such things as the native palm oasis, wildflowers, rock art of bygone cultures, and scenic views.

In total, the California Desert offers an infinite variety of outdoor recreation experience. And it is a year-round experience. It is a combination of geography, geology, climate and access that makes it truly the people's playground in paradise.

THE PUBLIC LANDS

The desert region of Southern California covers an area about the size of Ohio. Inhabited by nomadic Indians when first seen by Spanish explorers, oppressively hot in summer, and with little water, it was a barrier to European settlement in the Southwest. The Missions on the coast did not link with those in New Mexico. Settlement of northern California and linkage

by railroad to the East would happen first. But Southern California had a manifest destiny to grow. The desert was conquered by the transportation net and by miners and farmers who found that the land yielded products of great value if one met the desert on its terms and brought water into it.

During World War II, a new settler discovered the desert. The military found the broad expanse and clean air valuable for training troops and pilots. Today its military uses include space shuttle landings.

After the war, thousands of people returned to Southern California to work and play. During the 1950s and 1960s, while the urban population was expanding, many people were taking unauthorized "jack rabbit homesteads" in places like Apple Valley, Yucca Valley, Twentynine Palms, Sun Valley, and Joshua Tree. The land was being settled by people escaping the city and used as a base for rockhounding, exploring, or just having a spot to relax.

Today, the 12.1 million acres of public land, administered by the Bureau of Land Management, is still open to a variety of uses. The balance of the 25 million acre California Desert Conservation Area is private, part of military reservations such as Edwards Air Force Base, or is part of two national monuments. This 12.1 million acres provides the base for Southern California's desert playground.

PROBLEMS IN PARADISE

Deserts, by their very nature, are considered tough and hard. Some believe they are worthless, unless irrigated. The arid expanse is often viewed, even by residents, as merely a place to dump bed springs and old car bodies.

As the population of Southern California grew, became more

affluent and more venturesome, something happened. Even before the environmental movement gained momentum in the 1970s, many of the long time users and residents began to see changes. Great crowds gathered for weekends, motorcycle races drew several hundred entries, and sometimes well over a thousand. Remote oases suddenly had competition for use. People began to compete with the desert bighorn sheep.

As the use increased, so did the incidents of vandalism. Signs were removed or destroyed. Mining equipment, ranch houses, wells, corrals—were all vandalized. Indian artifacts were taken and rock art was defaced.

But something else happened too. Scientists began to discover that the desert wasn't tough; rather it was a very fragile place. Tracks left by tanks in 1941 are still there. Sand dunes are not lifeless; just a foot under the intensely hot surface, whole communities of animals live and thrive and may be destroyed by vehicles. Vegetation also thrives in the dunes. It was soon realized that people were literally using and loving their desert to death.

By some estimates, visitors use of the California Desert exceeds 15,000,000 visitor days per year. And that doesn't include people driving the Interstates headed somewhere else. Even those "visitors" may marvel at desert scenery or wildflowers in bloom. Some areas in the desert, such as the Imperial Sand Dunes, near El Centro may be visited by 50,000 people on a three day weekend.

MANAGEMENT

The decade of the 1970s began to show what people working together can do. What evolved was a pattern of use planned to protect resources, while still providing escape, adventure, and diversity.

In 1973, BLM developed a plan for recreation vehicle access, called the Interim Critical Management Plan. The first of its kind anywhere, it provided specific places for people to race motorcycles, ride dune buggies, or just escape from the freeways. It dealt with only one phase of recreation, but it focused

on the problem of protecting resources and still providing outlets for use. It also dealt with only the most visible and most potentially damaging uses. Its preparation was guided by the Off Road Vehicle Advisory Committee, a committee of citizens who volunteered to bring about direction and protection.

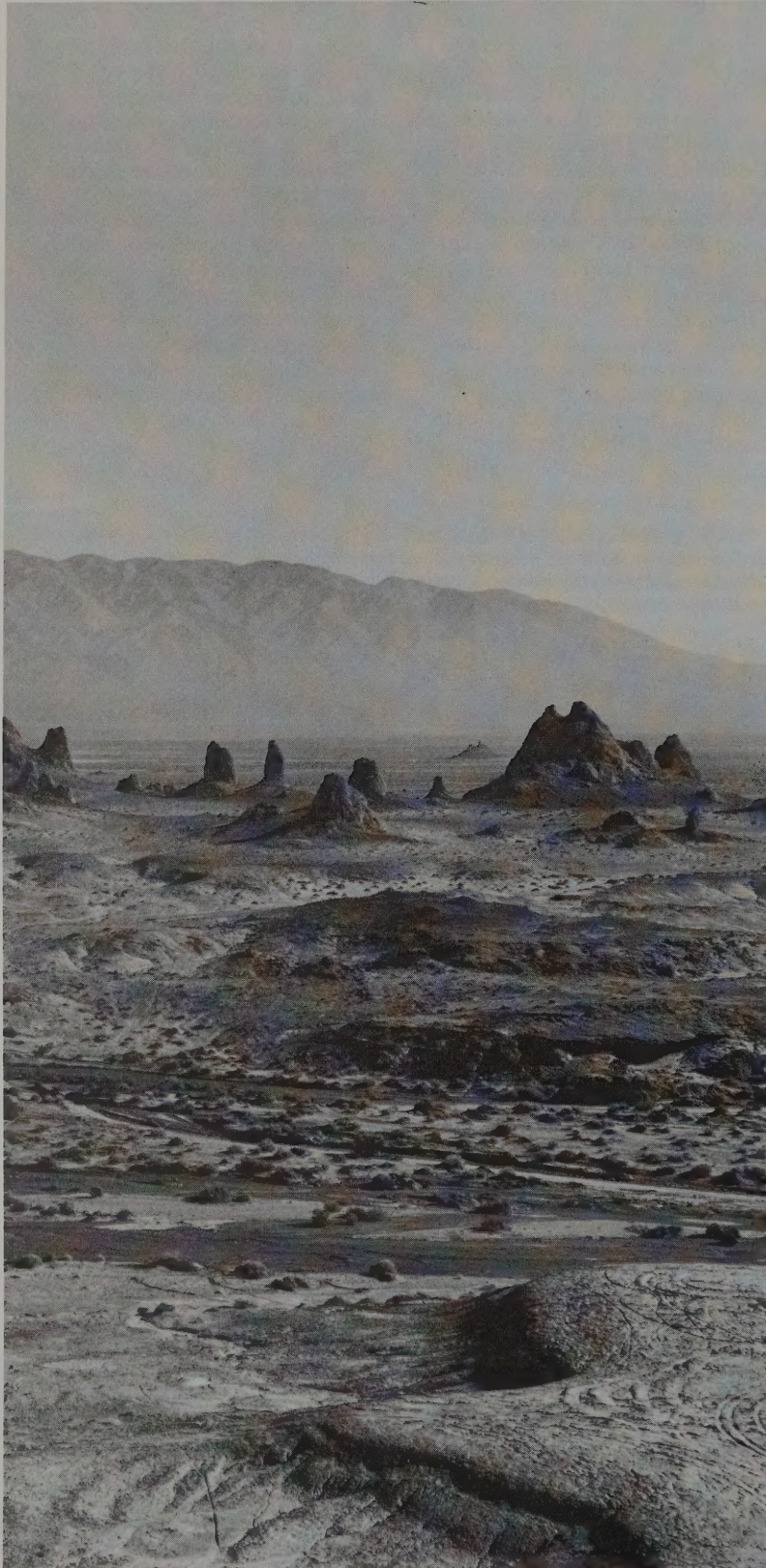
Established by Congress as part of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) in 1976, the California Desert Conservation Area was recognized as a unique land area requiring special management attention. In 1980 the California Desert Plan was adopted responding to the directive in FLPMA to prepare a comprehen-

sive long range plan for the California Desert Conservation Area. The plan reflects the principles of multiple use and sustained yield and provides for management, use, development, and protection.

Management of the desert is complex. A motorcycle race cannot be permitted in an area being managed for either solitude or geothermal steam production. Likewise, other kinds of resource use must be considered—livestock grazing may not mix well with campgrounds. The desert, however, is a big place. There are few major developments on the public lands and most people like it that way. Rockhounds will usually accept a herd of sheep nearby

A "small" gathering near the Salton Sea. From hundreds of miles away, recreationists come to share the desert. Many of these outings are managed under BLM's recreation use permit system which assures that cruises by large groups avoid sensitive resources.





while other users view grazing as part of the West and the last vestige of a vanishing way of life. Ranching and mining, in fact, can become part of a recreational experience for city people who have forgotten what rural life is like. A once-a-year motorcycle race or four-wheel drive trek need not conflict with other uses or other kinds of recreation, if well timed and managed.

Recognizing this need for management, the Secretary of the Interior adopted the California Desert Plan in December, 1980. This plan responded to the directive in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to prepare a comprehensive long range plan for the California Desert Conservation Area. Key provisions of the plan relating specifically to recreation uses include:

- Designation of specific areas for ORV play covering a variety of terrain, sand dunes, and dry lake beds covering 500,00 acres.
- Designation for play of seven other dry beds, four other dune systems.
- Preliminary recommendations on 42 areas covering two million acres as suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness System.
- Development of processes for the public to use and to designate routes of travel through-



(Left) A land of vast contrasts, public lands range in elevations from 235 feet below sea level to well over 11,000 feet. The Trona Pinnacles, formed of the minerals from springs offer a site of rugged beauty. **(Right)** Like a ski run, if placed in a cold climate, Competition Hill in the Imperial Sand Dunes attracts thousands each weekend.

out the Desert (Estimated by some to include 45,000 miles of roads and trails).

- Provision for camping along routes of travel outside of developed sites or open areas.
- Provision for competitive events on certain lands and designation of three point-to-point race courses.
- Maintenance of the existing eight campgrounds.
- Designation of the Eastern Mojave National Scenic Area.
- Development of a Visitor Services/Resource Protection group to provide for visitor assistance, patrol, and enforcement.

Public land management by BLM in the California Desert is low key and designed to help, rather than hinder or direct. BLM's first obligation is to keep incompatible uses separated and provide for protection of truly unique resources. The California Desert plan does that. BLM protects resources. But the basic thrust of resource management is conservation and wise use. BLM is obligated to assure that a variety of uses take place on the public lands. This multiple use includes recreation, wildlife, livestock, and mining. Many important archaeological and historic sites, trails, and wildlife areas are fenced, protected, developed and interpreted. People can use these areas, but access may be restricted and the areas may be patrolled. Many areas are fenced and protected by volunteers who give both time and materials to help preserve them. Finally, BLM has an obligation to users—to aid and assist, to advise and to help them enjoy and use the public lands responsibly and safely.

DESERT RANGER

Recognizing the need for protection of these vast resources, Congress authorized a Desert Ranger force for the CDCA.

A corps of 17 specially trained resource managers patrol the 12 million acres of public lands. They do a variety of tasks including:

- Visitor contact and information.
- Search and rescue.



- Resource inventory.
- Conservation education.
- Patrol of sensitive resource sites and areas of critical environmental concern.
- User contacts—ranchers, miners, and others.
- Law enforcement related to protection of Federal lands and resources.

In its early stages, the ranger program emphasized user awareness that desert lands have values other than recreation. Not all desert lands are held by the government and private property rights must be respected. Law enforcement delegation came in 1978, and since that time, rangers have been involved in many tasks involving protecting resources including desert plants, archaeological sites, wildlife areas, and livestock use allotments. Rangers perform duties in the remote reaches of the desert. They emphasize visitor service and resource information. They exist to help people. But they also assure compliance with land use plans and protection of valuable resources.

THE SPECTRUM

The desert is truly an escape. An escape from our regimented lives in a dense urban region. It is no longer a dumping ground. It is no longer vacant, open land. Some rebel at rules and guidelines for use, while others feel there are not enough. BLM feels that rules will not work if the public isn't included as part of the management equation. The California Desert Plan is

based on a general tenet: People will use the lands wisely if they understand the consequences of not doing so.

Recreation use of public land is different from most other land uses. The users don't always form a homogeneous group. They can't even be called a special interest group because their interests vary so widely. All these uses abound year round in the California Desert Conservation Area. And the public is involved. They help manage by peer pressure, by setting examples of proper outdoor behavior and by helping BLM with developments, planning, and solving problems. And, it's not hundreds of people, it's thousands. Good people. People who want to help. People who want to be sure that the recreation they enjoy today is still available tomorrow and in the decades to come.

PLAYGROUND IN PARADISE

It's Friday afternoon of a three-day weekend. And in southern California you have a choice. The mountains? The beach? Or the desert? If it's the desert, then it can truly be an adventure. It's a place for everyone to enjoy, to explore, to use, and to protect, no matter what their interest.

Gerald Hillier is District Manager for BLM's California Desert District.



The Big Sky Country's Big Outdoors

By Charlie Most

Anticipation was running high as I walked away from the four-wheel-drive vehicle into the pre-dawn chill. Ahead stretched some of the most rugged and yet uniquely beautiful landscape imaginable. This was Montana's Missouri Breaks region, a land of strangely eroded formations, tortuous coulees, scattered brush and timber, and big mule deer bucks.

Although I would enjoy the rough scenery as daylight chased away the darkness, my principle reason for being that morning was to find one of those big bucks.

It was easy to understand why deer liked this country. There were abundant, brushy vantage points for daytime bedding grounds, plenty of good escape routes, should an intruder get too close to the bedding area, scattered pines

and juniper for cover, and dense patches of mountain mahogany as a convenient supply of nutritious browse.

A steep trail led toward the distant Missouri River and I followed it downhill a short distance before turning off to hunt along the side of a big ridge. Numerous smaller ridges branched off the big one and I eased out along each of these to the end and then back toward the main ridge. There were plenty of fresh deer tracks and droppings, and my approach was to maintain the same elevation while hunting out all the brushy pockets and points.

And the tactic worked!

I had knelt behind a juniper bush to move my extra jacket into the little hunting pack when I heard the characteristic "snort" of a deer. Looking carefully through the

brush, I saw a big doe moving in that spring-legged, mule deer way up the adjacent little ridge. She stopped to look back, another frequently displayed idiosyncrasy of mule deer, and then I caught a flicker of movement to my left. Three more does were standing there and behind one of them was the big, harem master buck I was hunting. As the doe stepped away from in front of him, I placed the cross-hairs just behind the buck's shoulder and squeezed the trigger.

It was an instantaneous, one shot kill—the kind every hunter should strive for—and I was in possession of one of the West's most familiar, yet prized big game trophies.

The public lands of the West provide some of the finest hunting and fishing in the world, and during the eight years I lived in Montana, I had ample opportunity to enjoy the Big Sky State's outdoor bounties. There are some 54,000 mule deer roaming public lands managed by the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management in Montana. These lands also support an additional 20,000 white-tailed deer which seem to do as well in a prairie habitat as they do in the deer woods of Pennsylvania, almost 25,000 pronghorn antelope, plus elk, bighorn sheep, moose and black bear.

Mule deer are undoubtedly Montana's most popular big game species, and sport hunters there have developed some interesting ways to hunt these big-eared western deer. One delightful method is to float the wild and scenic portion of the Missouri River, hunting the little valleys and breaks leading back from the river, and the infrequent islands. There are more than 160 miles of river in the designated Wild and Scenic section and, except for three ferry boat crossings, the riverway is little changed from when Lewis and Clark journeyed upstream in 1805. With formal designation under BLM administration, it's expected to stay that way.

Floaters do most of their deer hunting during the early morning hours by walking out from overnight campsites.

Deer aren't the only game that can be hunted on a Missouri River

float. During the fall of the year, myriads of ducks and geese follow this great waterway during migration.

Contributing to this abundance of ducks and geese is a unique habitat improvement project by BLM biologists and engineers on Montana's northeastern prairies. Farther east and north extends the prairie pothole region, a land of numerous ponds and lakes gouged out by continental glaciers during the last ice age. This prairie region normally attracts millions of ducks looking for ancestral nesting grounds in the pothole country. The biologists took advantage of a reservoir building program, aimed primarily at providing water for livestock, to make certain modifications that would attract nesting waterfowl.

It's an axiom of waterfowl biology that the numbers of nesting birds increase as available shoreline increases. Also, nesting waterfowl seem particularly attracted to islands since they offer more protection from those animals that might eat the eggs or young.

In planning a reservoir, engineers use a plane table to determine where the shoreline will actually be on the ground. Once this shoreline is staked, any fingers of land or peninsulas projecting into what will be the pond become evident. Then, when the dragline operator begins construction, it's an easy matter to scoop part of such peninsulas away to create islands. And the scooped out earth can be deposited in the shallow areas, also evident, to create still more islands. The result has been a significant increase in nesting ducks and geese in the area where these many stockponds are located.

There's another unique benefit to this stockpond construction program. Some ponds tap springs or other cold water sources, while others depend on warmer surface runoff for their water supply. Because of this, the man-made "potholes" show individual variations in water temperature. Working with fisheries experts from Montana's Fish, Game and Parks Department, BLM had these reservoirs stocked with varieties of game fish compatible with the water

temperature range in the different ponds. Now, a fisherman can stand on a prairie rise with three ponds in sight and choose among trout, bass or walleye fishing.

Montana is famous for its trout streams, many of which drain in part from the public lands. What angler hasn't heard of such "blue ribbon" trout waters as the Big Hole, the Beaverhead, Madison, Galletin, Jefferson, and Yellowstone? Add to these the numerous smaller streams that also have excellent fishing and Montana literally becomes an angler's mecca.

Although spring runoff often has many of the State's fine streams in a high, murky condition until mid-July, there is good fishing in May and June when the big stoneflies emerge. These giants among aquatic insects, usually two inches or more in length, crawl as nymphs up onto shoreline rocks or mid-stream boulders where their skins split to let the adult insects take wing. These adults fly back over the water to mate and deposit eggs, thus starting the next generation of stoneflies. It's when the adults return to the river that the big trout go on a feeding binge, often slashing wildly at the clumsy insects floundering in the current's grip. Big trout lose some of their caution during the stonefly, or salmon fly hatch as it's sometimes called, and many widely traveled anglers come from other countries and from all parts of the United States to enjoy the sport.

Indian summer in the Big Sky Country is my favorite time there. The usual equinoctial storms of autumn come in late September, followed by a period of comfortably warm days spiced with frosty mornings and evenings. The aspens have turned butter yellow on the flanks of mountains that often have a dusting of snow on their peaks, and the air has a wine-like quality to it. Also, the trout are hungry and various hunting seasons have started.

I always had trouble deciding what to do in this invigorating season—should I go trout fishing or hunting? I finally realized the answer is both. Hunt during the chilly mornings and then head for

the nearest trout water during the warmer mid-day hours.

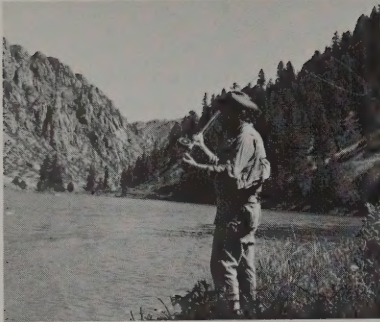
As to finding a place to hunt, the public lands administered by BLM are normally open to hunting. The exception is during times of high fire danger or some other emergency situation.

BLM has initiated an unusual program to ensure hunter access while helping ranchers at the same time. Called the S-60 program, for some obscure reason, it consists of cooperative agreements with certain ranchers who have prized livestock grazing on the public lands at the time hunting seasons are starting. The ranchers are concerned that some of their livestock may be hit by stray bullets, or perhaps frightened into some other kind of injury, yet they only lease the forage and cannot post the land we all own. So an agreement is reached between BLM and the individual rancher under which the Bureau will close the land where the rancher's livestock is grazing, and the rancher opens up a like acreage of his private land to public hunting. It's a cooperative program that has worked well in eastern Montana.

And through another cooperative effort, BLM has helped provide developed access to prime fishing waters in Montana. Most of the State's original settlers preferred river bottom land for the additional shelter from winter storms and because they needed the water to irrigate their fields. As a consequence, much of the stream frontage is privately owned. Most ranchers of my acquaintance were reasonable when asked for fishing privileges, but access was never a sure thing. However, there were some scattered tracts of land along these rivers that had remained in Federal ownership under BLM administration.

Through the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, many of these tracts were conveyed to the Montana Fish, Game and Parks Department which then put in roads, parking areas, toilets and picnic tables for anglers and their families.

There are also several BLM recreation sites that have good fishing nearby. Two excellent campgrounds are located along the



This BLM-designated primitive area harbors big trout but heavy currents through much of the canyon dictates stout tackle to land them.

Madison River south of Ennis, providing convenient camping beside one of Montana's great trout streams. Farther downstream, another campground is located at the north end of BLM's Beartrap Canyon Primitive Area. The canyon holds trout of awesome proportions in its heavy, boulder-churned currents and stout tackle is needed to land fish here. The Beartrap is also home to more than a few rattlesnakes, making the fall, when they are less active, a preferred season for this stretch of the Madison.

Even out in the rolling prairies of eastern Montana, good fishing is available. I recall camping one night near a large prairie reservoir, only to be awakened at first light by splashing sounds from the lake. When I got up to investigate, I saw big trout wallowing in the shallows after some kind of insect nymph or crustacean. And I didn't even have a fishing rod along!

So whether it's hunting a majestic elk in a logged-over area near Missoula or stalking an alert and perpetually nervous pronghorn antelope on the rolling prairies around Miles City; casting a big, bushy stonefly imitation to an orgy-bent brown trout in the fast moving currents of the Madison or cranking spinners through a smallmouth bass pool in the Tongue River, the Big Sky State offers much adventure for visiting outdoor enthusiasts. And the latchstring is always out on your eight million acres of public lands there.

Charlie Most is Chief, Branch of Resource Information in BLM's Office of Public Affairs, Washington, D.C.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT STATE OFFICES

Alaska:
701 C Street, Box 13
Anchorage, AK 99513

Arizona:
2400 Valley Bank Center
Phoenix, AZ 85073

California:
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

Colorado:
1037 20th Street
Denver, CO 80202

Eastern States Office:
350 S. Pickett Street
Alexandria, VA 22304

Idaho:
550 West Fort Street
P.O. Box 042
Boise, ID 83724

Montana:
222 N. 32 Street
P.O. Box 30157
Billings, MT 59107

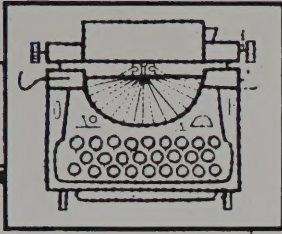
Nevada:
300 Booth Street
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, NV 89520

New Mexico:
South Federal Place
P.O. Box 1449
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Oregon:
825 NE Multnomah Street
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208

Utah:
136 East South Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Wyoming:
2515 Warren Avenue
P.O. Box 1828
Cheyenne, WY 82001



News Highlights

BLM Gains Two National Natural Landmarks

The Secretary of the Interior recently designated two sites in the Roswell, New Mexico, BLM District as National Natural Landmarks (NNLs). The two areas are: Mathers Natural Area, comprising 241 acres believed to contain the best remaining undisturbed example of the shinnery oak-sand prairie community in the Southern Great Plains; and the Mescalero Sands South Dune, comprising 3,208 acres believed to contain the best example of an active sand dune system in the Southern Great Plains. NNL designations, totaling 543 nationwide for all agencies and 42 for BLM, are the Department's means for officially identifying and encouraging the preservation of nationally significant examples of the full range of ecological and geological features that constitute the Nation's heritage. Designation does not formally affect the ownership or management of the areas.

Businessmen Pay for Unauthorized Mining

Four Tuscaloosa businessmen were required to reimburse the United States for Federally-owned coal they mined without authorization in 1975. A Federal judge in U.S. District Court in

Birmingham ruled that Lloyd Wood and John Plott, officers of the Lloyd Wood Coal Co., along with Jack H. McGuire and William McGuire, would have to pay the Government \$22,384 for 763 tons of Federally-owned coal they mined under surface owned by the McGuire family in northern Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. The funds were received by the U.S. by May 19. In criminal charges surrounding the case, The McGuire brothers pleaded no contest and were adjudged guilty in August 1980 of coal depredation, were fined \$1,000, and given one year of supervised probation.

BLM and Counties Cooperate

There is a new era of cooperation between BLM and counties. In fiscal year 1981, the Bureau entered into a cooperative project with the National Association of Counties to identify examples of effective cooperative efforts and to provide to both county officials and BLM managers, ideas and methods for improving relations with each other.

Bureau offices in Oregon have been particularly active in efforts to work more effectively with counties. A number of memoranda of understanding have been signed between BLM Districts and counties as well as one between the Oregon State Office and the Association

of Oregon Counties. These agreements are to stimulate better communication.

Alaska Lands Opened

Almost three million acres of public lands in Alaska have been opened to the public for mining and mineral operations. This is in keeping with the Secretary of the Interior's program to review all public lands administered by BLM to see if implementation of multiple-use management principles can be extended. Specifics can be obtained from the BLM Alaska State Office in Anchorage.

Coal Program Regulations

Final regulations on coal management, exploration and mining operations took effect on August 30, 1982. The new regulations reduce the volume of previous regulations by about 30 percent and are the result of a review of the Federal coal leasing program initiated by Secretary Watt in April, 1981, to carry out the President's directive to eliminate burdensome and unnecessary rules. The rules streamline the process for offering publicly owned coal lands for lease while maintaining strict environmental control. Under the new rules, State Governors will have a more significant role in establishing Interior's coal leasing levels.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20240

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INT-415



**BLM Library
Denver Federal Center
Bldg. 50, OC-521
P.O. Box 25047
Denver, CO 80225**

The Surest Way to Get From Here to There



is Keeping Fit.

Whatever your age, wherever you live, you can make your journey through life healthier and happier and live longer by taking part in a regular program of vigorous exercise. Run, jog, walk, swim, play tennis, bicycle, work-out. Watch your diet. Changing your life style will change your life. Try it.

Write Fitness,
Washington, DC 20201



**President's Council
on Physical Fitness
and Sports.**

Remember. Fitness is for everyone. For life!